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Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003000260069-0

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Deputy Director, Central Intelligence

DATE: 22 December 1952

FROM : Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT: Request for Guidance on Noel Field

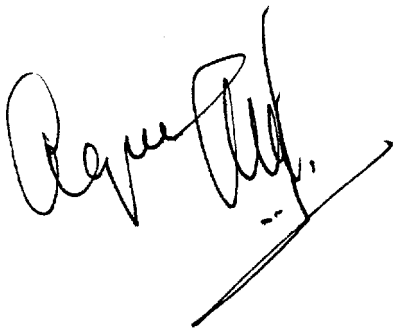
Mr. Long telephoned me today regarding a request by Alfred Friendly, the WASHINGTON POST, who states the POST contemplates running a series of stories on Noel Field by an Hungarian refugee, the main theme being that Field is a long-time Communist. The POST asks guidance as to whether it should proceed with such a series.

Recommend no guidance be given.

Obviously the POST will accept an affirmative answer as CIA's belief of Field's guilt--that he is a long-time Communist--and there follows the possibility of the POST's letting it be known in publishing and perhaps governmental circles that the CIA is of the same belief as the writer of the series. If the POST is told it should not publish the series, then it would appear that CIA believes Field was not a long-time Communist. We would be participating in public judgment of a loyalty case, even though CIA per se does not appear.

The publication of the series or the failure to publish will not in any way, it appears, further the intelligence or security efforts of CIA or of the Country, and is purely a matter of publishing enterprise of the POST.

Joe Harsch, of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, whom you know, told me recently he would like to get the facts on Field, for, he said, it will bring out the truth about Alger Hiss and Lawrence Duggan. So the Field story will have implications beyond the Field family.



STANLEY J. CROGAN

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23 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DUBOIS

SUBJECT: Noel FIELD

Mr. Alfred Friendly of the Washington Post called on 22 Dec. to ask your advice (and presumably to seek confirmatory evidence) on a series of articles being prepared by a Hungarian exile on the disappearance of the Fields and their present whereabouts. I told him that you were out of town and could not be reached by telephone and he concluded that he had best make his decision on the acceptability of the articles on the basis of his own knowledge of the case.

I informed Col. Grogan of this and he agreed that we would officially in no wise provide any information on this matter.

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